

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2541

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, ZA, TZ, PGOV

SUBJECT: PRESS LEAKS ON RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT RAPPED BY KAUNDA

1. PRESIDENT KAUNDA, IN TESTY MOOD AT TENTH ANNIVERSARY CIVIC DINNER HOSTED BY MAYOR OF LUSAKA, LASHED OUT AT "CLEVER" NEWSMEN WHO HAD BROKEN HIS STRICT BLACKOUT ON NEWSOF LUSAKA CONFERENCE BETWEEN WHITE RHODESIAN LEADERS AND BLACK NATIONALISTS WHICH PRESIDED OVER BY PRESIDENTS OF ZAMBIA, TANZANIA AND BOTSWANA. IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS KAUNDA SAID HE "STRONGLY OBJECTED" TO THIS BREACH OF FAITH, IMPLYING IT HAD SET BACK SOLUTION OF RHODESIAN PROBLEM. HE CALLED UPON THOSE WHO HAD VIOLATED SECURITY ORDER AND PUBLIC TRUST TO COME FORWARD AND CONFESS THEIR ACTION; IF NOT, HE WOULD GO DIRECTLY TO NEWSPAPERS CONCERNED (HE USED PLURAL); "FIND THEM OUT;" AND EVEN BAN THE PAPERS CONCERNED. KAUNDA MADE HIS PUBLIC APPEAL FOR ADMISSION OF SECURITY LEAK AND NEWSBREAK FOUR TIMES IN COURSE OF
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ACKNOWLEDGMENT SPEECH TO TOAST GIVEN BY MAYOR. IN

HEAT OF HIS ILL-TEMPERED OUTBURST, KAUNDA SAID "HEADS WOULD ROLL" IF CULPRITS DID NOT COME FORWARD.

2. KAUNDA CAREFULLY AVOIDED IDENTIFYING ARTICLE OR SUBJECT OF NEWS LEAK WHICH DISTURBED HIM SO PROFOUNDLY. SPECULATION GENERALLY CENTERED ON LEAK CONCERNING "IMMEDIATE MAJORITY RULE" AS ISSUE WHICH BROKE UP CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, MORE PERCEPTIVE BUT LIMITED SPECULATION CENTERED ON TIMES EXCLUSIVE ARTICLE YESTERDAY DEC 9 REVEALING PUBLICLY FOR FIRST TIME PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA, IN CONNECTION WITH LUSAKA MEETINGS, HAD MADE SOME TRIPS TO PRETORIA TO MEET VORSTER, LATTER HAD SENT AIDES TO LUSAKA, AND CHONA HAD GONE TO SALISBURY TO CONFER WITH MUZOREWA, NKOMO, SITHOLE AND BRING THEM TO LUSAKA. STORY ALSO SPOKE OF FONMIN MWAANGA'S TALKS WITH SAG FONMIN MULLER IN NEW YORK, WHICH NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED LOCALLY.

3. KAUNDA HEATEDLY SAID, "WE ARE TRYING TO CORRECT AND SET RIGHT A MISGUIDED SOCIAL SYSTEM IN EXISTENCE FOR PAST SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS." GAINING PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, HE WENT ON, IS SERIOUS, COMPLICATED BUSINESS AND NOT TO BE APPROACHED LIGHTLY BY "CLEVER" OR CARELESS NEWSMEN WHO IGNORE SECURITY ORDERS. PRESIDENT SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND MISTAKES -- THEY ARE HUMAN FAILINGS AND HE HAS MADE THEM -- BUT IN THIS CASE HE SAW THEM AS DELIBERATELY MISLEADING ERRORS, WHICH COULD BE FATAL AND THEREFORE COULD NOT BE FORGIVEN. KAUNDA STRESSED DANGER TO LIVES OF "HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE" FROM ERRONEOUS REPORTS WHICH HE IMPLIED COULD LEAD TO MISCALCULATION AND STEPPED-UP GUERRILLA WARFARE.

4. CONTINUING IN CONTENTIOUS VEIN, KAUNDA ALSO CRITICIZED IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR OF THOSE PUBLIC OFFICIALS ABSENT WITHOUT MAYOR'S LEAVE FROM CIVIC DINNER. HE DEPLORED MANY VACANT SEATS (TABLE DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF PRESIDENT WAS ONLY ONE-THIRD FULL, MAINLY WITH FOREIGN DIPLOMATS). KAUNDA RECALLED WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME, FACT OF NEEDY PEOPLE IN ZAMBIA, AND STARVING PEOPLE IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE. HE CASTIGATED THOSE WHO, IN FAILING TO ATTEND

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DINNER, WERE GUILTY OF WASTE IN MONEY AND FOOD. FROM PODIUM KAUNDA ORDERED THAT LIST OF ABSENTEES BE COMPILED FOR HIM TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION. PA SYSTEM THEN CALLED UPON ALL GUESTS WHO ATTENDED TO LEAVE THEIR INVITATIONS OR NAMES WITH POLICE SERGEANT UPON LEAVING MUNICIPAL HALL.

5. KAUNDA CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY FIRST APOLOGIZING

TO MAYOR FOR HAVING TO SPOIL AN OTHERWISE PLEASANT
EVENING. HE THEN LET PUBLIC PRAYER THAT GOD
WOULD GIVE THOSE CONCERNED WITH WORKING FOR PEACE IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA "NECESSARY WISDOM AND GUIDANCE" TO
ACCOMPLISH THEIR AIMS.
WILKOWSKI

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